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"These two great blessings (health and wisdom) are promised to every man, woman and child in the Church of Christ who obeys the Word of Wisdom."—HEBER J. GRANT.

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MISSION OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

PRESIDENT RUDGER CLAWSON

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

"WE STAND for a testimony of the divine mission of Joseph Smith." This is a wonderful topic for our consideration, and a very great deal has been said about it already. It seems to me, brethren and sisters, that the greatest thing an individual standing before a body of people can say, is that Jesus is the Christ, and the next greatest thing is to testify that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God. Certainly these are two very important declarations, especially when we remember that among the millions and millions of inhabitants of the earth there are but few people who can bear them, and they will be found in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Outside of this Church, no such testimonies in their fullness are borne.

Now, I am profoundly impressed with this thought, that wherever opportunity offers, both with the young men and the old, and with the young women and the older women, they should avail themselves of the privilege of bearing this testimony. If they are not quite prepared to say that they know that Jesus was the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, they could at least say in most cases that they believe Jesus was the Christ and that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God. And then they should wait upon the Lord for the greater light.

In the thirty-three years of Christ's life upon the earth, and particularly including three years of His ministry, He accomplished a mighty work. All that He said, all that He did, cannot be written. We have a little of what He accomplished recorded

in the New Testament, and from what we read there we know that He worked many mighty miracles. But more important than all, we know that He organized His Church upon earth, with Prophets and Apostles, Pastors and Teachers, and that He introduced into the Church divine authority. He Himself stood for Divine authority. He said He came from the Father, and represented the Father. All that He said and did was in the name of His Father, and His Father was and is the author of divine authority. The Father said, speaking out of the heavens when His Son was baptized: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And the Holy Ghost descended upon Him. It is a wonderful story, it is a marvelous story. And in the end, after the mighty works that He did, He gave His life for the world. He was crucified for the sins of mankind, that all might be redeemed through faithfulness and be brought back into His presence.

JOSEPH SMITH'S MISSION

We know that the mission performed by the Saviour was wonderful, and it stands out pre-eminently above every other consideration and every other thing that has ever been done in this mortal world.

And now we pause for a moment to refer to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He was a restorer of that which had been lost to the world—namely, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Church of God.

The true Gospel and the true Church of God with its perfect organization were absolutely lost to the children of men and they had no means of reaching out and getting them, because the Church had withdrawn into the wilderness, so to speak, and divine authority went with it. Thus it was for eighteen hundred years after the crucifixion of the Saviour and the death of His Apostles, divine authority fled from the earth and was nowhere to be found among its inhabitants. In a sense we might properly designate these eighteen hundred years as dark ages, dark as far as the Gospel was concerned.

So Joseph Smith comes forward to announce his claim and that is the testimony we have to bear. His announcement was very clear, very distinct and pointed. He states in simple language, but with directness, that the Father and the Son appeared to him, which is one of the greatest events of the nineteenth century.

Nothing can be much greater than the fact that these two Holy Beings, the Father and the Son, appeared to the boy to demonstrate that they were personages, and had bodies and parts. He could see them with his eyes, which dispelled from his mind all doubt. It was a testimony that he could not deny. He had seen the Father and the Son, he had heard their voices. How wonder-

ful! That is the message he proclaimed to the world, a message that the world in general rejected. Because of that message he was persecuted.

Then he made the further announcement to the world, and especially to the Church, which is very comforting to the Church, that divine authority was bestowed upon him under the hands of Peter, James and John, and under the hands also of John the Baptist. Oh, how perfectly reasonable it was. If the authority of God was to be restored again to the earth why should it not come just in that way? We believe that it could not consistently come in any other way, except, of course, the Father and the Son had themselves laid their hands upon Joseph Smith and conferred it upon him. They did not choose to do that, but instead sent Peter, James and John, and John the Baptist who held this authority last upon the earth, to restore it again and to give it to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

Oh, what a wonderful testimony it was, and let me say, brethren and sisters, that the world at large and the people of the United States in particular, took upon themselves a tremendous responsibility when they rejected as a people the testimony of Joseph Smith. We know that it was a true testimony. It was divine authority that made of Joseph Smith a true Prophet of God. The Church was founded by divine authority, and it is by divine authority that the purposes of the Lord are accomplished and the Church is built. If the Church were stripped of divine authority we would be perfectly helpless as is the world at present.

SEALING POWER REVEALED

The Lord spoke to Joseph Smith by revelation (Doctrine and Covenants, Section 132), and said to him about the same thing that He said to Peter, who was the chiefest of the Apostles. The Lord said to Peter that He would give to him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, that whatsoever he should bind on earth would be bound in heaven, and whatsoever he should loose on earth would be loosed in heaven. That is divine authority. Similar words were spoken to Joseph Smith, namely, that whatsoever he should bind upon earth would be bound eternally in the heavens, and whatsoever he should loose upon earth would be loosed in heaven. And some further words were spoken to the effect that whose soever sins he remitted would be remitted eternally in the heavens, and whose soever sins he retained would be retained in the heavens. And something still further did the Lord say to this boy prophet. He said: "Whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse." So that the Lord put upon Joseph Smith the Prophet the divine authority by which he could bless and by which he could curse.

I have never heard of Joseph Smith the Prophet exercising the

power that was upon him in cursing. Woe unto the man who is cursed by divine authority. I do know, however, that Joseph Smith put many blessings upon the heads of the children of men and upon the Church of Christ. He left his blessings with his people.

GREATNESS OF MODERN PROPHET

In order to show you the greatness of this modern Prophet, let me give you a summary of the work which he accomplished after he was about twenty years of age. You know he was martyred in 1844. It is hardly conceivable what that man did, and unless we put the facts together and pause for reflection we will hardly realize it. Well here it is: Before the Prophet was twenty-five years of age he had seen the Father and the Son; had held eight conversations with the Prophet Moroni; had received the Aaronic Priesthood from John the Baptist, and the Melchizedek Priesthood from Peter, James and John. He had translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God, and had it printed and circulated among the people of the nation. He had organized the Church of Christ by instruction from heaven; had received a number of revelations from God, and then fourteen years afterward had seen Elijah who committed unto him the keys of turning the hearts of the children to the fathers; received a visit from Moses, who committed unto him the keys of the gathering; held communion with Elias, who committed unto him the dispensation of the Gospel of Abraham; had built two temples, one in Kirtland and one in Nauvoo. In the former he received the personal ministrations of Jesus. The latter temple was not completed before he was murdered. He received nearly two hundred revelations from God. He completed an entire edition of the Old and New Testament; he translated the Book of Abraham from rolls of papyrus written by Abraham himself while he was in Egypt, which came from the catacombs of Egypt. He had had revealed to him the visions and writings of Moses, contained in the Pearl of Great Price, and which contained a minute account of the rebellion in heaven and of the creation. He had mastered the Greek and Hebrew and other languages, although an illiterate boy when he first received heavenly messengers.

I testify to you, brethren and sisters, in all solemnity that I do know that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour of the world, and that I do know that Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of God, a mighty minister of righteousness, who held the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and now stands at the head of this great and last dispensation. I bear this testimony in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.—Address delivered at the Grant Stake M. I. A. Convention, held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., Sunday, November 14th, 1926.

THE FIRST VISION

ALL nature was smiling in Spring's glad array,
 When Joseph retired to the woodlands to pray,
 The warble of birds and the droning of bees
 Both merged with the song of the scent-laden breeze.
 And over all rested tranquility, peace,
 While murmuring trees cheered the song to increase,
 The boy knelt to pray, in the cool of the glade,
 To Almighty God, who would never upbraid.

In doubt was the heart and the mind of the youth
 As to which of the churches on earth had the truth ;
 He poured out his soul to the God who is love,
 To guide him and help him from heaven above.
 But, yet as he pleaded in suppliant prayer,
 The power of Satan was rife in the air ;
 It held him in thrall with a trice evil spell,
 Of terror, despair, and the blackness of hell.

So great was the darkness and fear of the tomb
 That Joseph prepared to succumb to his doom ;
 Exerting his strength and his fast ebbing will,
 He cried to the Lord to protect him from ill.
 The gloom was dispelled and despair put to flight
 By a wonderful, radiant pillar of light.
 Two Beings appeared, standing firm in the air,
 Robed in splendour and glory beyond all compare.

Then one spoke to Joseph, "Be brave, have no fear,
 "Give heed to My Son, to His words give thine ear."
 The humble boy knelt on the green, mossy sward,
 And hearkened with joy to the voice of the Lord.
 "No church on the earth has the fullness of light,
 "They abominate me and do wrong in My sight ;
 "By lips do they praise Me with songs and void prayer,
 "Their worship is shame, for their hearts are not there.

"They mock at My statutes, My judgments decry,
 "My truths they pervert and My power deny ;
 "They teach men's commandments for lucre and coin,
 "There're none of them right, then none of them join."
 Thus spake the Lord ere the vision did fade,
 The boy was alone in the cool of the glade,
 With warble of birds and the droning of bees,
 The song of the scent-laden wind in the trees.

WILLIAM J. JOLLIFFE, JR.

"IF they killed Jesus in former times, would not the same feeling and influence bring about the same results in these times? I had counted the cost when I first started out, and stood prepared to meet it."—JOHN TAYLOR.

PRIESTHOOD

First Week. Opening exercises. Ten-minute report of local Priesthood activities. Lesson: *Studies in Priesthood*, Chapter 11—"Branch Teaching." Study pages 54 and 55, from beginning of chapter to "Qualifications of a Branch Teacher." Objective: To show the importance of effective branch teaching and the results obtained by faithful performance of this work; that monthly visits should be made by each pair of branch teachers, and a report of their activities turned in to the branch president.

1. What is the purpose of branch teaching?
2. In what way does branch teaching insure harmony within the branch?
3. Who should be called as branch teachers?
4. (a) How often should the branch presidency and acting teachers meet together? (b) What is the procedure of such meetings?
5. What information should be obtained by branch teachers?
6. Why is it necessary for all who hold offices in the Priesthood to have the training and labour of an acting teacher?
7. What is necessary to promote effective branch teaching?

Second Week. Opening exercises. Ten-minute report of local Priesthood activities. Two twelve-minute talks, the first on "Submission to Secular Authority," taken from Biblical Teachings, referring to Talmage's *Articles of Faith*, from page 413 to 421. The second on "Submission to Secular Authority," from Book of Mormon and Latter-day Revelation Teachings, referring to *Articles of Faith*, page 421 to end of chapter. Refer to other Church books and references on these subjects. A class discussion to follow the remarks of each speaker, in which everyone present should take part.

Third Week. Opening exercises. Ten-minute report of local Priesthood activities. Lesson: *Studies in Priesthood*, Chapter 11—"Correct Branch Teaching." Study from "Correct Branch Teaching," on page 55 to end of chapter. Objective: To show the qualifications that are necessary for effective branch teaching; that correctly organized branch teaching is most efficient; that close co-operation should exist between branch presidency and acting teachers, and that improvement within the branch should result from branch teaching.

1. Name the qualifications of a good branch teacher.
2. What ideals and principles are necessary in branch teaching?
3. What is the value of organized branch teaching?
4. How can a branch teacher create a friendly feeling with each family?
5. What is the proper procedure with friends?
6. What are the results from branch teaching?

Fourth Week. Opening exercises. Ten-minute report of local

Priesthood activities. Two twelve-minute talks, the first on "Practical Religion," referring to Talmage's *Articles of Faith*, from page 429 to 435. The second on "Tithing," referring to some source from page 435 to "Marriage" on page 442. Refer to other Church books and references on these subjects. A class discussion is to follow the remarks of each speaker, in which everyone should participate.

P. W. L.

RELIEF SOCIETY

LOVE OF GOD is no mere sentiment, but lies in an obedient will, and keeping of His commandments. If then, the love of God consists in keeping His commandments, love becomes entirely practical intelligence, and is fed through growing knowledge by faith, action, and the Spirit of God. The feeling and enlargement of the heart in love to God, and experience of the love of God cannot remain wholly engrossed in one's self; it overflows in love to others, and yearns to bring them within the circle of blessings, as God's love yearns to bring man to Him. The love of God thus results in love to our fellow men. So certain is this that we are told that if we do not love our fellow men, we do not love God. Love of man has thus its origin in the love of God, both of which are primary principles in true religion, upon which hang all the law and the prophets.

SLOGAN: "We Stand for More Sincere Sisterly Love Through Application of the Saviour's Parables and Teachings."

LESSON TEXT: "The Value of Life Here and Hereafter."

First Week. Opening exercises. Slogan Talk—"This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you." (John 15: 12.) *Theology—Life Everlasting—Lesson No. 4.* "The Record Teaches of Jesus, our Saviour," pages 35-37. Objective: To show the positive and beautiful characteristics of God, as taught by the Book of Mormon; that Jesus is the Saviour, and through Him the whole world might be saved by love, mercy and justice; that the plan of Salvation is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

Second Week. Opening exercises. Slogan Talk—"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Luke 6: 31.) *Work and Business.* During this class period the "Teachers' Topic for January," pages 37 and 38 in the lesson text, should be discussed by the sisters present. Objective: To show that we are living in a day and age when we should let our "light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in Heaven."

(Continued on page 826)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1931

EDITORIAL

DEATH OF PRESIDENT CHARLES W. NIBLEY

IT IS with deep regret that we learn, as the *Star* is going to press, that President Charles W. Nibley, second counselor in the First Presidency, died in Salt Lake City on Friday, December 11th, 1931. He was a lovable, gifted man, a trusted leader, and above all, from the day the Gospel found him in Scotland, a devoted servant in the latter-day cause of the Lord.

JOSEPH SMITH

JOSEPH SMITH is the greatest personal witness for the truth of the work which he was the means of establishing. During a century, his life and character have been subjected to microscopic scrutiny by friend and foe. To-day, he is more than ever an enigma, unless his own explanation of himself and his labours is accepted. So far, every other theory to explain him has had to be abandoned. He rises, a majestic and unshaken figure, out of the peltings of the rabble and the analyses of the learned.

He came from good ancestry. His forebears were people of intelligence, integrity and honour; many of them held positions of trust among their fellows; some were numbered among English aristocracy; all toiled sturdily, loyal to their land, to provide for their families and to make the earth beautiful. His pedigree, now well unravelled, is such a one as any of us might have, if well born. There is no foundation in the statement of earlier years that irresponsible ancestors impressed dishonesty and superstition upon him. Genealogy only raises Joseph Smith into higher respect.

He possessed an intelligence of high order. Even a casual examination of the Book of Mormon reveals that it contains a wealth of wisdom; and his other literary productions are of equal merit. It is conceded that his literary labours as well as his other works are beyond the power of ignorance or stupidity. Enemies of his cause have sought refuge, but without success, in the assumption that wise and learned men, hiding behind the lad, wrote the Book of Mormon. No critic, even the most insolent, has questioned the authorship of the other writings ascribed to Joseph Smith, which are quite as marvelous as the Book of Mormon. The weather cock has veered around. Now it is said

that he must have been a man of tremendous intelligence to perform his life's work.

He was an honest, upright man, the same to all men; who preached but one doctrine from the beginning to the end of his ministry. Truth was upon his lips. His obligations were paid; he gave more than he received; and he died a poor man. Nearly fifty times he was arrested and tried before the courts on charges preferred by enemies to his work, and every time he was acquitted. It was a fire-test of his probity of life. If self-seeking and dishonest aims had dominated him, he would have been found out by the merciless investigation to which he was subjected. It is notable, that the study of his life, since his death, has revealed nothing culpable in him.

He was filled with kindness and love for his fellowmen. He played with children and engaged in outdoor sports with the mature. He was always ready to assist the sorrowing and unfortunate. He was tolerant with those who differed with him, and blessed all who came his way. To his family he was tender and loving; to his multitude of friends he was loyal. The genius of friendship, founded in love for humanity, possessed him. And, let it not be forgotten, his friends were true and loyal to him in life and death. It is doubtful, if any other public figure of the century retained so large a proportion of his friends through the vicissitudes of the years. That is an eloquent commentary on his lovable character.

His fearlessness in the cause of righteousness was superb. His God had called him to the work, and he never faltered in carrying out the obligations placed upon him. At times he was impelled to rebuke the wicked, though in overpowering numbers, and they quailed before his more than human courage. He faced the world, head up, with the message committed to him. Truth, his weapon and shield, made him unafraid. Untruth hides its head and slinks around the corner. He was never charged with cowardice.

His sincerity can not be questioned. Self was forgotten in his life's mission. Every act of his life was an evidence that he believed that he had been commissioned of the Lord to lead in the restoration of the Gospel. It has been said, now that ignoble motives can not be charged against him, that he was self-deceived; but self-deception ends when mortal danger threatens. On his way to the West and freedom, the call of his people reached him. He returned, knowing that death awaited him, and sealed his testimony with his blood. It was the witness of his complete sincerity.

Such a man, intelligent, honest, kind, courageous and sincere, becomes a safe witness for the work he sponsors. Evil fruit can not be grafted upon such a tree. The claims of such a man are worthy of investigation. The life of Joseph Smith adds strength to the truth of his message.—W.

FACTS ABOUT JOSEPH SMITH

JOSEPH SMITH was born on December 23rd, 1805. His childhood was that of any normal person, aiding his parents to make a living by tilling the soil. He learned to read and write, and in his early teens seriously observed the religious movements of the day. In the spring of 1820, he had his first vision, wherein he saw the Father and the Son who gave answer to his religious difficulties. The Angel Moroni visited him in 1823, which marked the beginning of frequent communications with heavenly beings, and thence onward he received many divine revelations, which comprise the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. In 1827, the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated were intrusted in his care; on May 15th, 1829, Joseph was baptized and ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood, shortly afterwards being ordained to the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood; the first edition of the Book of Mormon was printed and ready for public disposal in March, 1830, and on April 6th, 1830, he organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During his leadership of the Church he caused that the Gospel message be carried to the four quarters of the globe; he saw, according to many authorities, more than fifty thousand persons embrace the Gospel; he built and dedicated one Temple at Kirtland, Ohio, and partially constructed another at Nauvoo. At the time of his assassination, on June 27th, 1844, by a murderous mob, Joseph was mayor of Nauvoo, Lieutenant-General of the Nauvoo Legion, one of the regents of the Nauvoo University, and a member of the Nauvoo Agricultural and Manufacturing Association, besides his religious calling as Prophet, Seer and Revelator of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His was a life of activity and good works.—WELDEN C. ROBERTS.

RELIEF SOCIETY

(Concluded from page 823)

Third Week. Opening exercises. Slogan Talk—"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14: 11.) *Literature—Mothers of Ancient Scripture—Lesson No. 4, "Hebrew, Sarah: 'Princess'—Mother of the Covenant Race,"* pages 38-42. Objective: To show that Sarah, Mother of the Covenant Race, was a woman of remarkable faith in God and loyalty to her mission in life.

Fourth Week. Opening exercises. Slogan Talk—"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Cor. 13: 13.) *Social Service; Human Welfare—Lesson No. 4, "Phases of Growth,"* pages 42-45. Objective: To show the process, rate and variation of child growth both physically and mentally; the marked characteristics of a child's growth and a health creed for young and old.—JOSEPHINE B. LUND.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SACRAMENT GEM FOR JANUARY

IN remembrance of Thy suffering,
 Lord, these emblems we partake,
 When Thyself Thou gav'st an offering
 Dying for the sinner's sake.

CONCERT RECITATION FOR JANUARY

(Ephesians 4: 32.)

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

GOSPEL DOCTRINE DEPARTMENT.

January 3. Lesson 1. "Preview." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 1. Objective: This lesson is a general preview of the year's work, and should be treated as such. It is not intended as a discussion of the various points mentioned. The teacher will do well, therefore, to treat the subjects merely as forecasts of the more detailed treatments that will follow. An excellent opportunity is afforded to arouse enthusiasm for the year's work.

January 10. Lesson 2. "Vitalized Religion." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 2. Objective: The chief purpose of this lesson is to show that the Church is prepared to provide for every natural interest of its members—religions, physical, social, etc.

January 17. Lesson 3. "Breadth in Religion." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 3. Objective: Breadth in religion must not be confused with carelessness and indifference. The Church has been accused of being narrow because it makes very definite demands of its members. The truth is that law is always exacting; otherwise it would not be law. True breadth is an eagerness to learn the truth and accept it.

January 24. Lesson 4. "Man's Inability to Discover God." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 4. Objective: Men, the world over, have very definite opinions with respect to the existence of a Creator. The fact is that man of himself is unable to discover God and, therefore, without divine assistance, man would forever remain ignorant of Him. The man who says there is no God is totally unable to prove his assertion.

January 31. Lesson 5. "How to Know God." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 5. Objective: The chief purpose of this lesson is to show how we may know God; by prayer, and by testimonies of others, etc.

NEW TESTAMENT COURSE "A."

January 3. Lesson 1. "An Introduction." Objective: To acquaint the pupils with conditions in Palestine and show that

the country and the people had been given a course to prepare them for the coming of Jesus. PART 2. Lesson 1. "The Birth of Christ." Text: Weed's *A Life of Christ for the Young*, Chapters 3, 4 and 5; Sunday School Lesson No. 1. Objective: To acquaint the pupils with the humble birth and show the importance of this event as attested by the coming of the angels to announce it.

January 10. Lesson 2. "The flight into Egypt and Jesus at Home in Nazareth." Text: Weed's *A Life of Christ for the Young*, Chapters 6 and 7; Matt. 2: 19-23; Sunday School Lesson No. 2. Objective: To show that our Heavenly Father had His protection and care around Jesus even from His birth, and to show that Jesus had a healthy normal childhood and developed under beautiful surroundings.

January 17. Lesson 3. "Jesus in the Temple." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 3; Luke 2: 41-52; Weed's *A Life of Christ for the Young*, Chapters 8 and 9. Objective: To show that Jesus had a desire to prepare Himself for His mission, and yet exhibited loving obedience to His mother.

January 24. Lesson 4. "John the Baptist." Text: Luke 1: 5-23, 57-80, and Weed's *A Life of Christ for the Young*, Chapter 11; Sunday School Lesson No. 4. Objective: To teach that John was foreordained and divinely appointed to become the forerunner of the Saviour.

January 31. Lesson 5. "The Baptism of Jesus." Text: Weed's *A Life of Christ for the Young*, Chapter 12; Matt. Chapter 3; Sunday School Lesson No. 5. Objective: To teach that Jesus yielded obedience to the ordinances of the Gospel, and was acknowledged as the Son of God by the Father Himself.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

January 3. A Picture Lesson.

January 10. Lesson 1. "Our Spirit Home and Why We Came to Earth." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 1. References: *Pearl of Great Price*: Abraham 3: 22-29, Moses 4: 1-5; Revelations 12: 7-9; Isaiah 14: 12-14; Jude 6. Objective: The Lord overrules all things for the good of His righteous children.

January 17. Lesson 2. "How the Earth Was Made." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 2. References: Genesis 1; 2: 1-3; *Pearl of Great Price*: Moses 2, Abraham 4; 5: 1-7. Objective: God overrules all things for the good of His righteous children.

January 24. Lesson 3. "How Adam and Eve Came to Leave the Garden of Eden." Text: Sunday School Lesson No. 3. References: Genesis 2; 3; *Pearl of Great Price*: Moses 3: 8-25; 5: 4-13. Objective: The Lord overrules all things for the good of His righteous children.

January 31. Lesson 4. "Which Knew Best." Text: Genesis 4: 1-16; Acts 9: 1-23; Sunday School Lesson No. 4. Objective:

Disobedience generally brings sorrow, but obedience always brings satisfaction.

The Instructor.

It is suggested that the two and one-half minute talks be based upon the following topics: "Explain the Latter-day Saints' doctrine regarding the resurrection," and "How may we honour our parents?"

For singing practice during the month of January, the following songs are suggested: "Wake, O Wake the World from Sleeping" and "Sweet is the Work my God, my King."

W. K. L.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

THERE are many things necessary for true enjoyment. One of these is a healthy body, for that is the instrument which the spirit uses; because the gifts of a splendid mind are practically valueless unless there be a healthy body in which to function. This, then, is required of all that we comply with the laws of health. Every environment and convenience for the promotion of health is freely placed about us: heat, light, air and food. These energy-producing elements we need only to wisely utilize and bring into control, then they may contribute to our physical health and happiness.

Having a clean, strong, healthy body, we have given the spirit proper habitation, an environment harmonizing with the will of God, and placed it in favorable conditions, that spiritual growth may be continued. By this combination, "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2: 10.)

The object and purpose of every soul is to attain the riches of eternity. If we expect to find these riches we must permit ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God, and exercise every effort in keeping His commandments, that we may grow both spiritually and temporally to the greatest extent, thus receiving a fulness of joy both here on earth and hereafter.

SLOGAN: "We Stand for Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Health through Observance of the Word of Wisdom."

Lesson Text: "The Gospel and Health."

FIRST WEEK. Opening exercises. *Preliminary Program:* Slogan Talk—Point out the negative teachings of the Word of Wisdom. Have someone give a report of scientific progress, and have this followed with a dramatic reading. *Lesson:* Chapter 10, "Food and Health." **Objective:** To show the prime purpose of food and how food correctly selected will develop immunity from disease; that the Word of Wisdom is a divine document given for the guidance of the Saints against conspiring men in

the last days. Enumerate the blessings received for obedience to the same.

SECOND WEEK. Opening exercises. (No Preliminary program.) *Lesson*: Chapter II, "Food Composition and Classification." *Objective*: To show that certain food elements are required by the body in maintaining good health; that a well balanced menu is important in the dietary of man. Turn the last half-hour over to a rousing good debate. "Resolved: That Wealth is more preferable than a good Education."

THIRD WEEK. Opening exercises. *Preliminary Program*: Slogan Talk—Point out the positive teachings of the Word of Wisdom. Have someone give a summary of important historical events of the past year, and follow this with a vocal solo. *Lesson*: Chapter 12, "In the Season Thereof." *Objective*: To show that a proper diet is necessary in the season thereof; that modern science is justifying this claim, and that we as Latter-day Saints should correct our dietetic errors.

FOURTH WEEK. Opening exercises. Mutual Improvement Social. Suggestive helps to an enjoyable evening will be sent out in the January *Game Supplement*.

P. L. W.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE Scottish District Conference, held Sunday, November 22nd, at 30 Abbotsford Place, Glasgow, will long be remembered by the members and friends of the district.

On the preceding Saturday, instructions were given to the members concerning Patriarchal blessings. That evening and during the conference, twenty-nine blessings were given by Patriarch James H. Wallis, there being forty-one others who applied for blessings, but Patriarch Wallis was unable to give them at that time.

There was a rich outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord at the Sunday morning session, at which instructions were given the brethren by President A. William Lund and Patriarch James H. Wallis. Sister Josephine B. Lund gave valuable and uplifting instructions to the sisters.

During the afternoon meeting the Authorities of the Church were sustained by the vote of the members. President Lyndon J. Hall gave a brief report of the District's activities for the past six months. The pageant, "Salvation for the Dead," was beautifully presented in an impressive and sacred manner by the members of the Glasgow Branch, which impressed those in attendance of the importance of the work to be done for their dead kindred.

During the evening session, the largest gathering of the day, President Hall welcomed the members and friends and bore

testimony to the divinity of the work. A duet was beautifully rendered by Sisters Jessie and Mine Thomson. Patriarch Wallis held the audience spellbound as he related some of his life's experiences and expounded the Gospel truths. An inspiring violin solo was then rendered by Elder A. Ray Curtis. President Lund clearly and simply explained the Scriptures and exhorted the people to heartily accept the Gospel truths and then make those ideals and principles part of them—in their daily activities.

The following mission authorities and missionaries were present: Mission President and Sister A. William Lund, and W. Kenneth and George Lund and Elder Stephen S. Moore, of the British Mission Office; Patriarch James H. Wallis, of the European Mission; President Lyndon J. Hall, and Elders Ralph C. Bardsley, Ralph C. Merkley, Carl Condie, LeGrande G. Sharp, A. Ray Curtis, John S. Russell and Kenneth M. Wheelwright, all of the Scottish District; President Merrill H. Glenn and Elder Ronald L. Wilson, Ulster District; Elders Blayne J. Barton, Percy L. Matthews and Robert C. Neslen, London District; Bert W. Bellamy, Nottingham District, and Elder Joseph D. McAllister, Leeds District.

ELDER LYNDON J. HALL, District President.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfers: On December 4th, Elder Ferris H. Allen was transferred from the Hull to the Liverpool District.

Appointments and Releases: On November 26th, Elder Ronald L. Wilson was appointed president of the Birmingham District, succeeding President Orrin W. Astle. Elder Orrin W. Astle was appointed president of the London District on November 29th, succeeding President Owen M. Wilson (released).

Arrivals and Assignments: The following missionaries arrived from America for the British Mission on December 2nd, aboard the *President Harding*, and have been assigned to the Districts thus specified: Carl G. Agren, Roberts, Idaho, to the Hull District; William H. Clawson, Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Sheffield District; Clifford G. Green, Kaysville, Utah, to the Newcastle District; Thomas S. Harris, Brigham City, Utah, and Louis G. Robinson, Los Angeles, California, to the Liverpool District; Eugene A. Hooper, Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Manchester District.

Releases and Departures: The following missionaries have been honourably released from their labours in the British Mission and have departed for their homes in America: T. Byron Jones and Henry B. Squires, Manchester and Welsh Districts, released October 2nd, Karl C. Durham, Birmingham and president of Hull District, released October 18th, Gordon B. Taylor, Birmingham District and president of Liver-

pool District, released October 25th, Junius E. Driggs, London District, Assistant Secretary, and Secretary and Treasurer of British Mission, president of Manchester District, released November 1st, B. Kenneth Lunt, Newcastle and Manchester Districts, released November 9th, all sailed from Cherbourg on November 26th, aboard the *President Roosevelt*; Thomas Biggs, Welsh District, released November 9th, sailed from Southampton on November 26th, aboard the *President Roosevelt*.

Doings in the Districts: *Newcastle*—A baptismal service was held in the Sunderland Chapel on Saturday, October 17th. Four persons were baptized by Elders James R. Clark and Angus S. Bodily, and were confirmed members of the Church the same day by President Leo E. Bevan, and Elders Henry Groom, E. Wendell Stringfellow and Clarence A. England.

Norwich—At baptismal services held in the Norwich Chapel on September 5th, two persons were baptized by President Irving T. Duffin. They were confirmed members of the Church the same day by Patriarch James H. Wallis and Elder Elwood Corry.

On October 17th, a baptismal service was held in the Norwich Chapel, at which two persons were baptized by Elder Elwood Corry, and confirmed members of the Church the same day by President Irving T. Duffin and Elder Elwood Corry.

DEATHS

HARKINS—Sister Mary Harkins died in her eighty-third year, after a prolonged illness. Sister Harkins was for many years the oldest member of the Scottish District. Funeral services were held at the family home on November 16th, under the direction of President Lyndon J. Hall. The grave was dedicated by Elder A. Ray Curtis.

SIMPSON—Sister Ann Simpson, of the Belfast Branch, Ulster District, passed away on November 12th. At an early age Sister Simpson accepted the Gospel, and has been an ardent and faithful worker in the Church, being the means of the conversion of her entire family to the truthfulness of the Gospel. Her loss is deeply felt by her immediate family and friends. Elder Ronald L. Wilson dedicated the grave.

BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

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